

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 186

By Lundberg

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Claudia H. Byrd for her meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Claudia H. Byrd, who has distinguished herself as a citizen of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, a native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Ms. Byrd attended Wake Forest University; she is a longtime resident of the Tri-Cities area, and in 2006, she was named an Honorary Alumna of East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, since its founding in 1997, Claudia Byrd has served as executive director of the Bristol Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities (BMS SCC), in which capacity she oversees the organization's annual grant application process and works closely with the local board of trustees to coordinate numerous fundraising events; and

WHEREAS, under Ms. Byrd's leadership, the BMS SCC has distributed more than \$14 million since its inception, awarding grants to hundreds of qualified organizations in the eighteen-county area surrounding Bristol Motor Speedway. In 2016, the chapter awarded a record-breaking \$1 million to regional children's charities, and in 2018, it raised \$805,141; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Byrd has a long history of board membership and involvement in a variety of civic and nonprofit organizations dedicated to serving children, youth, and their families; she has served on several State boards and committees, including the East Tennessee State University Foundation Board, the Roan Steering Committee, and the Kingsport Community Foundation Board; and

WHEREAS, she has also served as president of the Rotary Club of Kingsport, the Children's Advocacy Center of Sullivan County, and The Paramount Theatre; and

WHEREAS, a woman of devout faith, Ms. Byrd is an active member of First Presbyterian Church in Kingsport, where she serves as an elder and preschool Sunday school teacher; and

WHEREAS, the proud mother of Belton Caldwell and Christian Byrd and the doting grandmother of eight grandchildren, she enjoyed thirty-six years of marriage with her husband, the late Jeff Byrd, who was the longtime president and general manager of Bristol Motor Speedway; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Byrd epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and she should be specially recognized for her many accomplishments and devoted work; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Claudia H. Byrd for her selfless service to her fellow citizens and extend to her our best wishes for continued success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.